items captioned "Ministry weighs selling off power lines, NTPC assets" published in 'Economic Times' dated 13th November, 1999;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether NTPC, NHPC and PGTL were referred to Disinvestment Commission earlier;

(d) if so, the recommendation of the Commission regarding disinvestment of these PSUs;

(e) whether the Disinvestment Commission had recommended long ago that Government should not disinvest equity in NTPC; and

(f) if so, the reasons for selling off the units now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir, The Disinvestment had recommended that NTPC should examine various alternatives for restructuring. The Commission had not recommended disinvestment in NHPC and PGCIL for the present. However, the Government is considering various options including disinvestment for leaveraging of the financial strength of NTPC and PGCIL for taking up an accelerated power development and transmission programme.

Fiscal Limit under E.S. Act

876. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CEA had advised Government under section 3(1) (x) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, not to enhance the fiscal limit

of the schemes up to the limit of Rs. 5000 crore under section 29(1) of the said Act;

(b) whether the same was accepted by Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) does not arise.

Power to Rajasthan from other Sources

†877. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the requirement and availability of power, per month in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Central Government propose to co-operate with the Rajasthan Government to make available sufficient power from other source to farmers, for irrigation of Rabi crops; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Details of requirement

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.